

D-806
George Holder House
Cambridge
c. 1880
Private

One of the most interesting late nineteenth century houses that defines Gay Street, formerly Gay Alley, in the center of Cambridge, is a two-story, gable-front dwelling known during the early twentieth century as the George Holder house. Built around 1880, the side hall/double-pile frame structure is distinguished by an unusual single-story, three-sided bay window capped by a concave curved and tapered seamed tin roof. A pair of exterior brick chimneys dominate the east gable end of the front block, which is enhanced by a bracketed eave typical of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Sanborn Insurance map locates the front section of this house on its earliest 1885 issue for the city of Cambridge, and the distinctive exterior architectural features confirm its construction during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. At the time this house was erected, its location, known as "Gay Alley," was largely residential in its position directly west of the intersection of Poplar and Race streets, one of the most prominent commercial locations in the courthouse town. As a result of this proximity to commerce, the nature of the street would soon change. By the time the 1901 city map was printed by the Sanborn map company, the Cambridge Roller mills had been built a short distance to the west, and the early Cambridge Hospital was located nearby with a frontage on High Street. When the 1918 map was printed the frame dwelling was used for boarding. Twelve years later, on the 1930 issue, it is documented that the flour mill operation has been torn down and replaced with a row of early twentieth century

bungalow inspired brick and frame dwellings. George Holder, and/or his wife Nettie,
held title to this property between 1925 and 1946.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-806

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other George Holder House

2. Location

street and number 502 Gay Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name DCD Properties, Inc.

street and number 5360 Aireys Road telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 689 folio 137

city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4635 tax ID number 7-164521

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-806

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Known since the early twentieth century as the George Holder house, this two-story, two-bay gable-front frame dwelling stands at 502 Gay Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1880, the two-story side hall/double-pile main block rests on a minimal brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay, single-pile wing. The house is currently unoccupied. It faces north with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The George Holder house, located at 502 Gay Street, is a two-story, two-bay, gable-front frame dwelling built around 1880 on a low brick foundation. The exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards, and the low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, three-bay by one-room service wing. The house is currently boarded up and not occupied. The interior was not accessible.

The north (main) façade is an asymmetrical two-bay elevation marked by a side entrance and an adjacent single-story, three-sided bay window projecting outward from the house and covered by a concave curved seamed tin roof. The second floor is marked by two off-center two-over-two sash windows. The gable end is finished with an extended eave marked by decorative corner brackets. A small vent pierced the upper gable end.

The east side elevation is defined by a pair of exterior corbelled base chimney stacks that pierce the roofline and are finished with inward stepped corbelled caps. Four-over-four sash windows light the first and second floors. Located in the northeast corner is a secondary entrance sheltered by a gable roofed hood supported on stick brackets. Along the base of the roof, the eave is defined by Victorian brackets.

The west side elevation is the equivalent of three-bays across although there is only a single window opening on the first floor and only two on the second. The first floor window is boarded over, and the second floor openings are filled with six-over-six sash. The base of the roof is finished with decorative brackets like the rest of the front section.

The south wall of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, three-bay by single-pile service wing that is extended on its east side by a single-story shed roofed extension. Piercing the center of the rear wing is a single flue brick stove chimney.

The interior was not open for inspection; the house is currently vacant and boarded up

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-806

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

One of the most interesting late nineteenth century houses that define Gay Street, formerly Gay Alley, in the center of Cambridge is a two-story gable-front dwelling known during the early twentieth century as the George Holder house. Built around 1880, the side hall, double-pile plan frame structure is distinguished by an unusual three-sided bay window capped by a concaved curved seamed tin roof. A pair of exterior brick chimneys dominate the east side of the rectangular main block, which is enhanced by a bracketed eave typical for the late nineteenth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Sanborn Insurance maps locate the front section of this house on its earliest 1885 map for the City of Cambridge¹, and the distinctive exterior architectural features confirm its construction during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. At the time this house was erected, its location, known as "Gay Alley," was largely residential, although its environment would change within ten to fifteen years as commercial establishments were introduced nearby. By the time of the 1901 city map, the Cambridge Roller Mills had been erected a short distance to the west and the Cambridge Hospital was located nearby with a frontage on High Street.² By 1930 the flour mill operation had been torn down and replaced with a row of early twentieth century bungalow inspired brick and frame dwellings.³ George Holder and/or his wife Nettie, held title to this property between 1925 and 1946.⁴

¹ Sanborn Insurance Map, 1885, Library of Congress.

² Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901, Library of Congress.

³ Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930, Library of Congress.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Records, JFD 16/66, 14 February 1925; RSM 44/233, 3 January 1942, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-806

Name George Holder House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

George Holder House
502 Gay Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 301, Parcel 4635

MLB 689/137

Dorchester Community Development Corporation

to

10.11.2005

DCD Corporation, Inc.

PLC 241/704

Abdul Q. Shahid & Nusrat S. Shadid

to

10.7.1986

Dorchester Community Development Corporation

\$28,000 Lot 3

PLC 236/97

Marianne M. Catterton, Sedona, Arizona

to

7.31.1985

Abdul Q. Shadid and Nusrat S. Shadid

\$22,000

Maryland Historical Trust
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Inventory No. D-806

Name George Holder House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

PLC 224/716

Robert L. Catterton and Marianne M. Catterton

to

8.25.1981

Marianne Catterton

PLC 215/534

Ronald G. Daringer and Delores A. Daringer

to

8.5.1980

Robert L. Catterton and Marianne M. Catterton

\$15,800 Lot 3

PLC 187/34

Dashiell and Leonard, Inc.

to

10.1.1974

Ronald G. Daringer and Delores A. Daringer

RSM 57/545

Nettie M. Holder, widow

to

4.6.1946

Dashiell and Leonard

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name George Holder House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

RSM 44/233

Calvin Harrington, et al.

to

1.3.1942

Nettie M. Holder

\$3425.00 "208-A Gay Street"

Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland, passed on the 20th day of September 1941, No. 6594, in Chancery, being the case of Nettie M. Holder, Administratrix of the personal estate of George D. Holder, vs. Nettie M. Holder, sole heir at law of the said George D. Holder, and Ernest Wirz, mortgagee, the above named Calvin Harrington and Calvin Harrington, Jr. were appointed trustees to sell the real estate therein decreed to be sold,...all that right title and interest of all the parties in and to all that lot or parcel of land situated lying on the south side of Gay Street, in the city of Cambridge, being No. 208-A Gay Street,...Beginning for the same at a point on the south side of Gay Street at the northeast corner of the home property of Elizabeth C. Slacum; thence runs and binds with the south edge of Gay Street, in an easterly direction, 35 feet more or less, to the property of Howard Cooper and Bertha L. Cooper, in a southerly direction, 185 feet more or less, to a parcel of land formerly owned by the said Nettie M. Holder, and which is now owned by Dashiell and Leonard, Inc. thence running and binding with the said Dashiell and Leonard, Inc. land in a westerly direction, 35 feet, to the said property of Elizabeth C. Slacum, in a northerly direction, 185 feet to the south edge of Gay Street,...and being the same property where the said Nettie M. Holder now resides.

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Name George Holder House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

JFD 16/66

Cambridge Manufacturing Company, M. Colona Slacum,
Elizabeth C. Slacum

to

2.14.1925

George Holder

SEE

SHEET

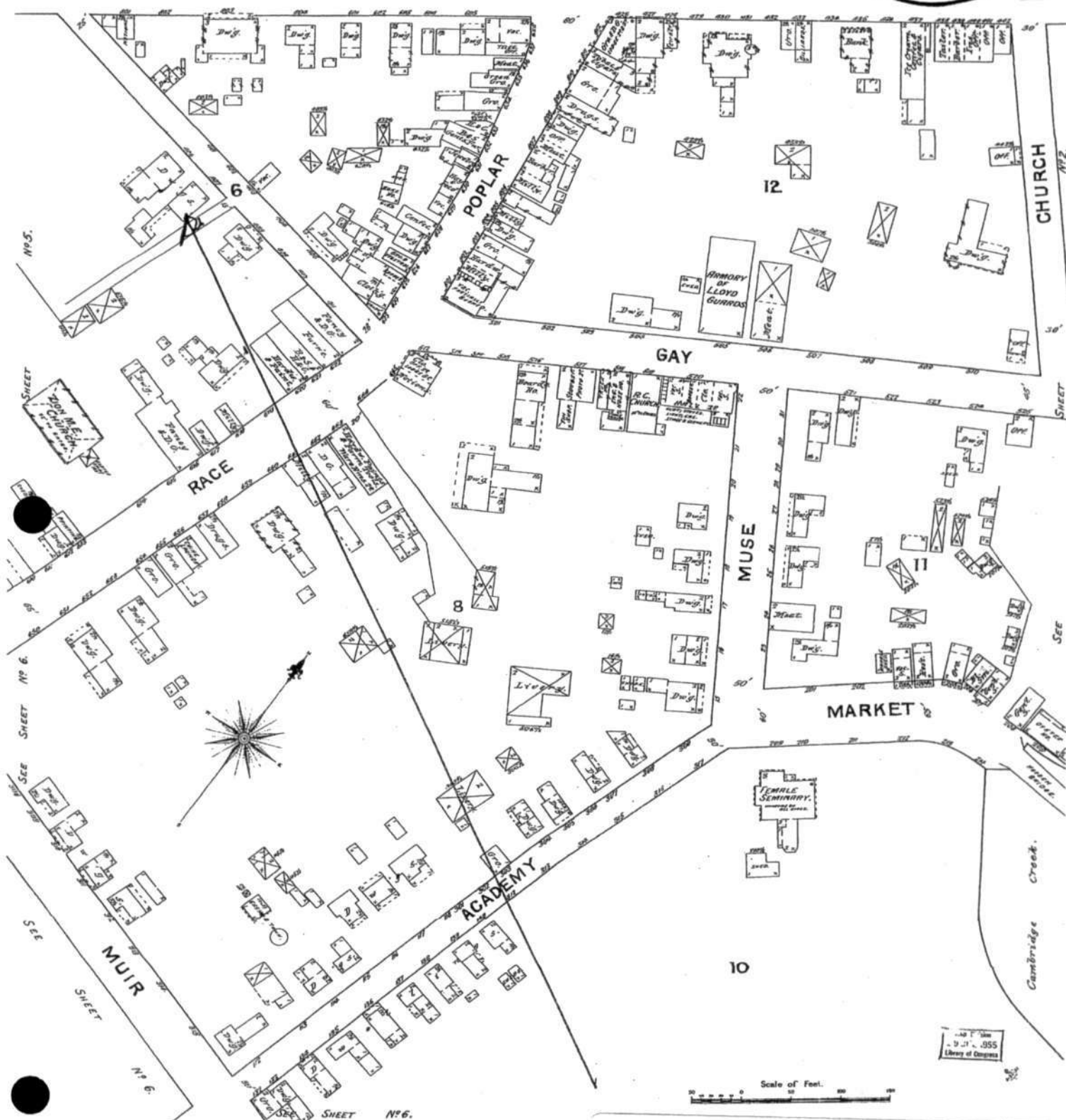
Lower 45

NO 3.

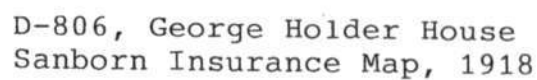
MAY 1891
CAMBRIDGE
M.D.

4

HIGH



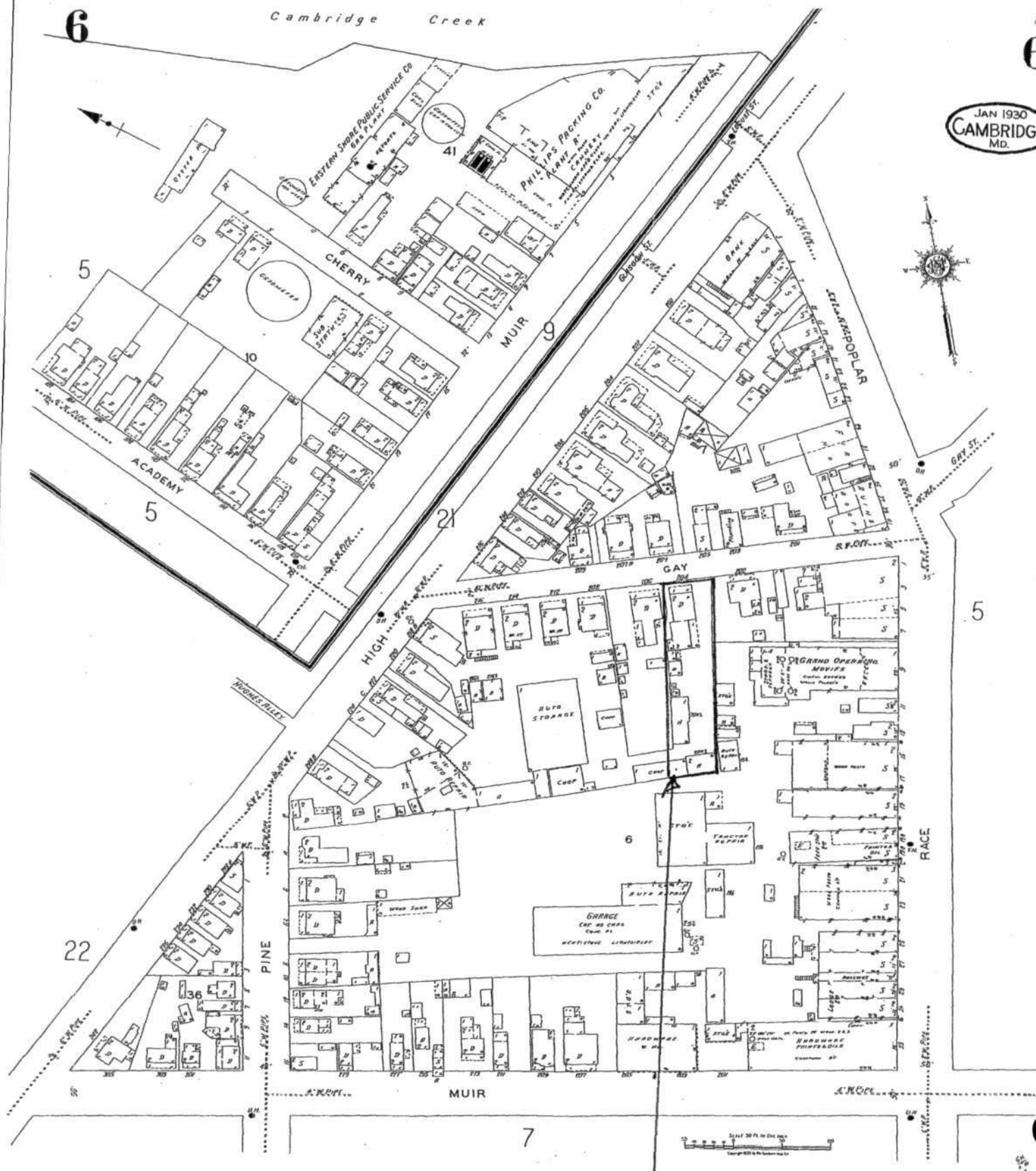
D-806, George Holder House
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891



6

Cambridge Creek

6

JAN 1930
CAMBRIDGE
MD.

D-806, George Holder House
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-806

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,270 square feet
Acreage of historical setting Town lot of unknown exact size
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/18/2011
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-806

George Lincoln House

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

1. 2011, Paul B. Toussaint, PITOTV.

Nat. / Md. Hist. Trust

1 of 3



D-806

GEORGE TURNER HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER
Co. MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

1.2 VII, PAUL B. TONANT,
PITTSB.

WET./MD. HIST. TRUST

2 of 3



D-806

GEORGE HOLMAN HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co.
MD.

WORTH ELEVATION

1. 2011, Paul B. Tourant.
PITTV.

W. 2. / MD. 1st. T. 2011

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